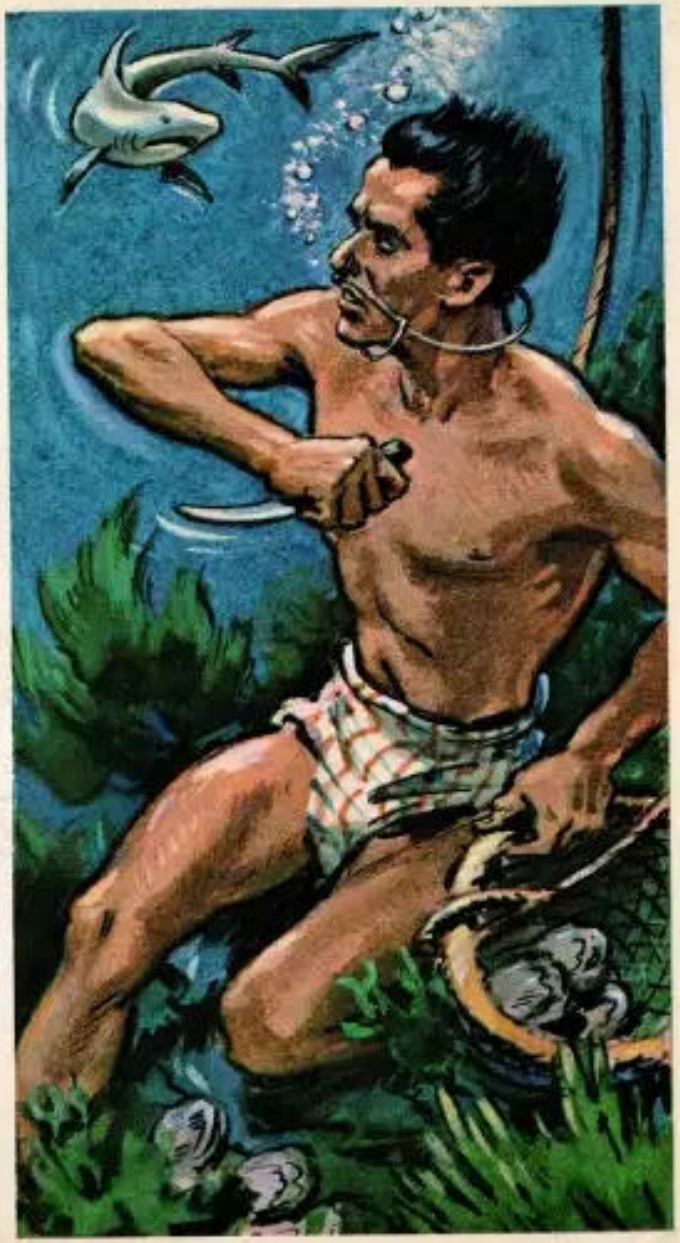
Stage 2

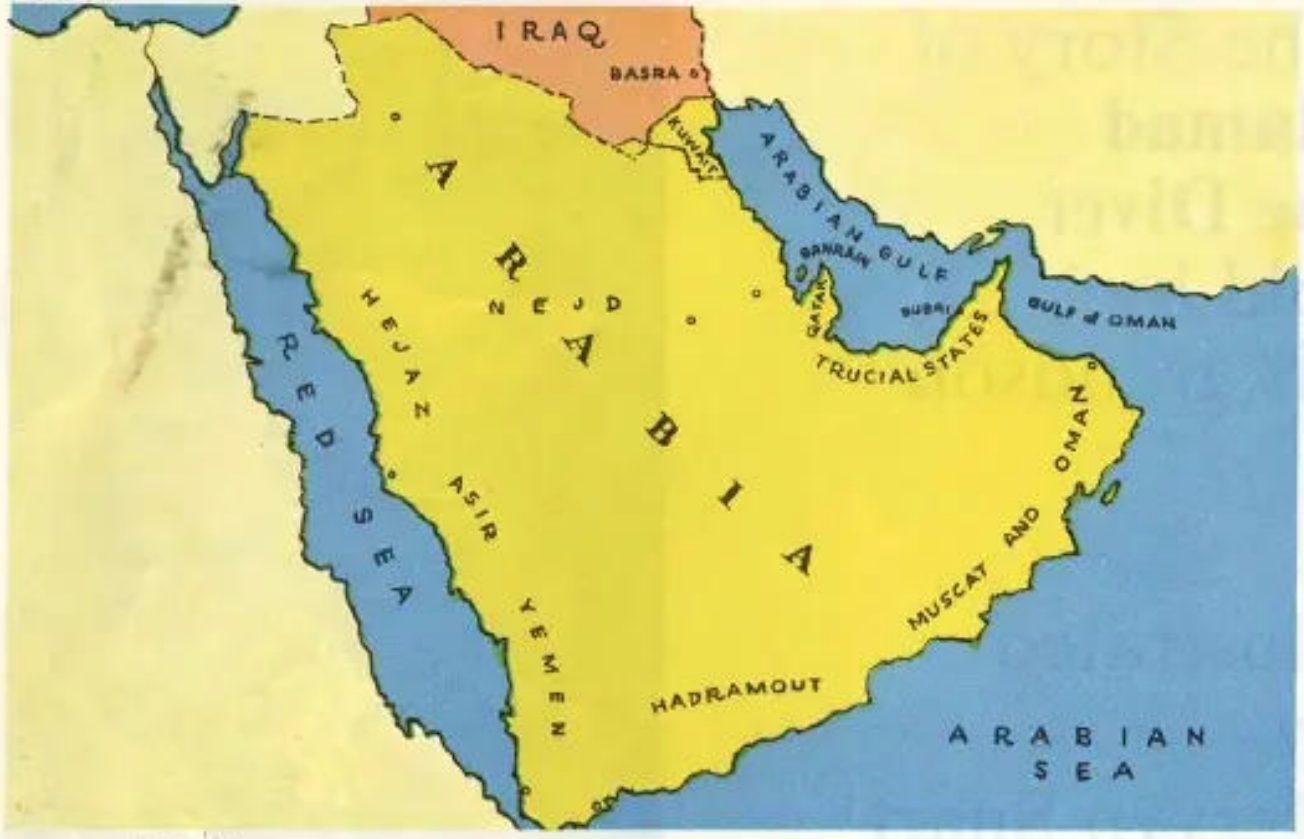
Longman

Structural

Readers

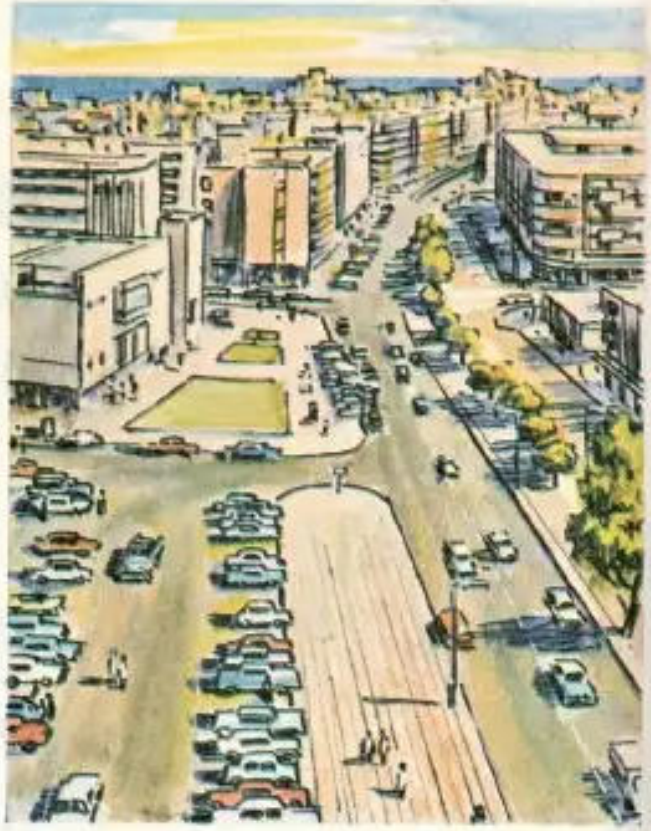
Hamad the Diver



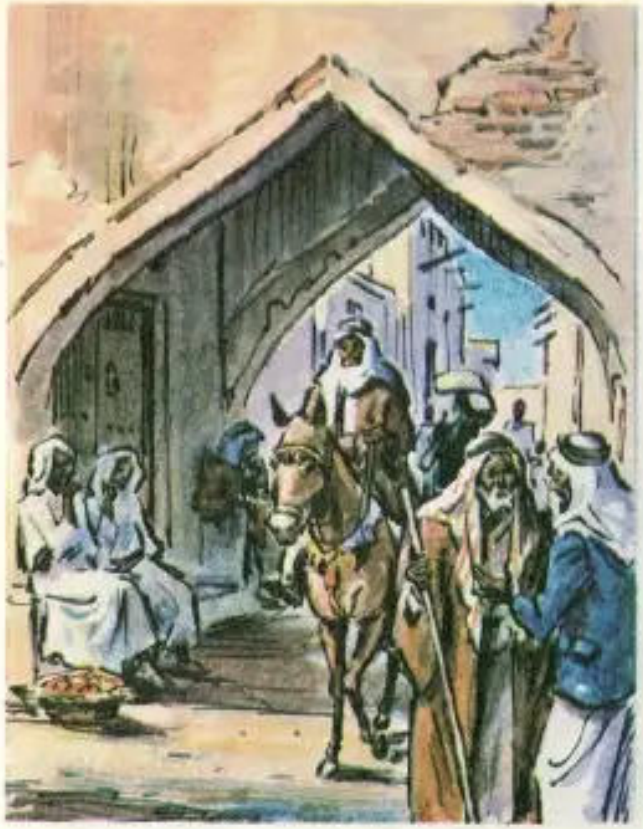


This is a map of Arabia. You can see the Red Sea. You can see the Arabian Gulf, too.

Kuwait is a country. A country has many cities. It has many villages, too. Can you see Kuwait on the map?

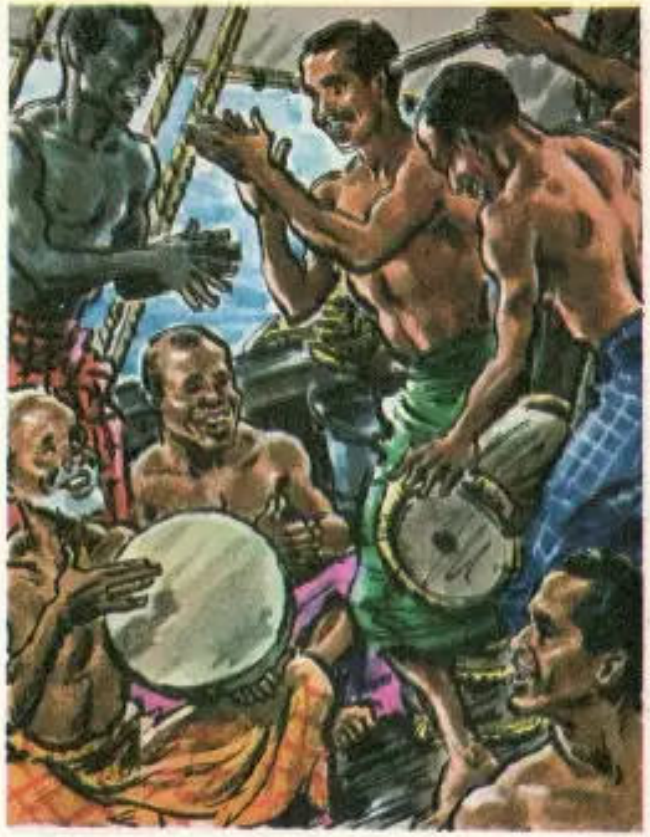


Kuwait is not a very big country. It has one city. It is Kuwait City. Kuwait City is big. It is not old now. It is modern. This is a picture of modern Kuwait.

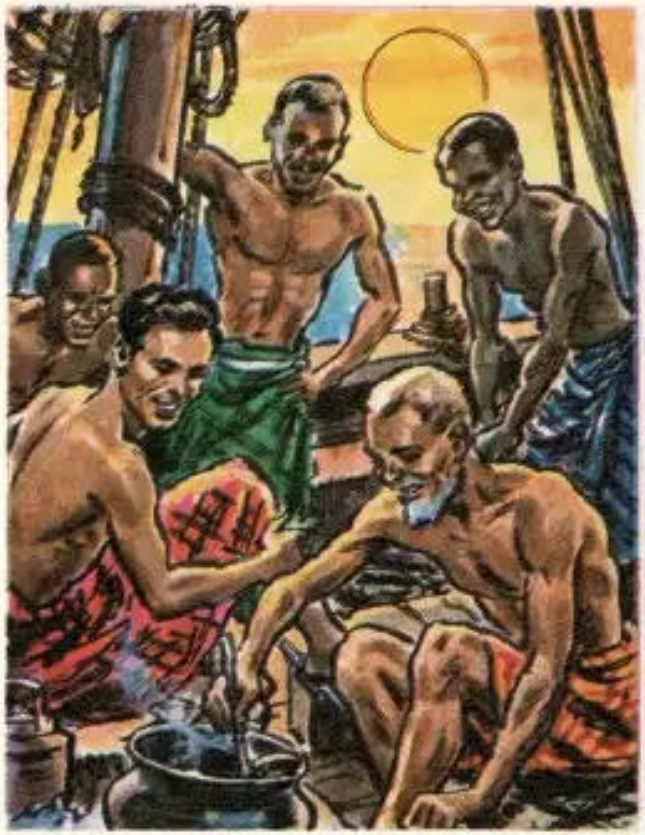


This is a picture of old Kuwait. Its people were not very rich. Many of them were poor. The houses were small. The streets were dark.

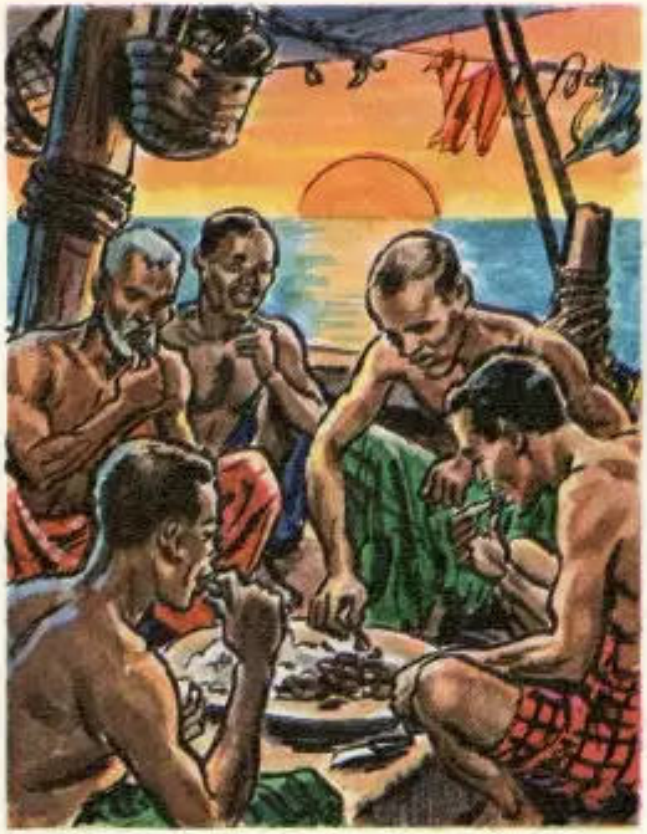
This is a story from old Kuwait. Hamad is an Arab. He lives in Kuwait. He is a seaman. A seaman works on the sea. Hamad works on the sea.



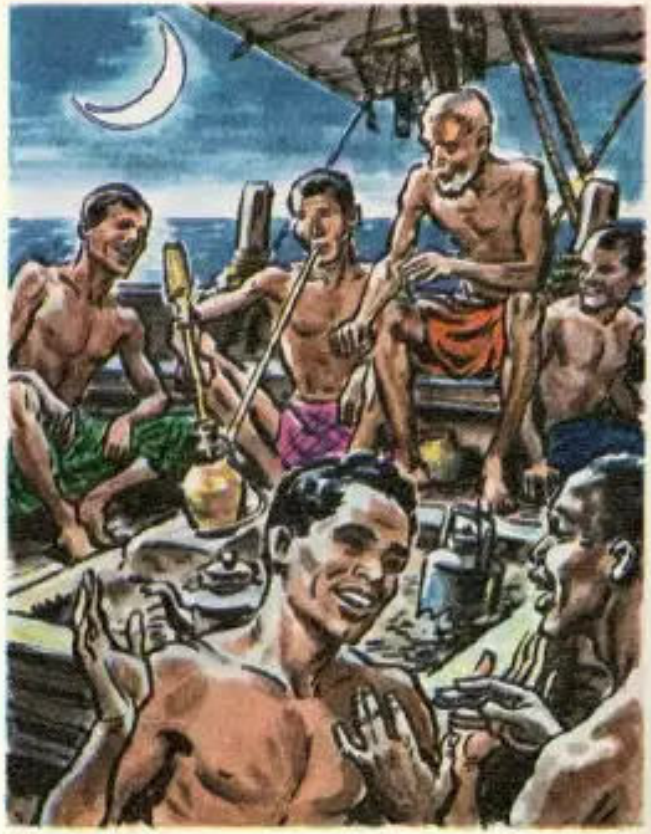
Every year Hamad goes out on a ship. Now the ship is in the middle of the sea. There are other men with Hamad. They are seamen, too. They are dancing and singing songs. They are happy.



Now it is evening. The sun is going down into the sea. The men are cooking their food. They are hungry. The sea-air is cool and good. It makes the men hungry.

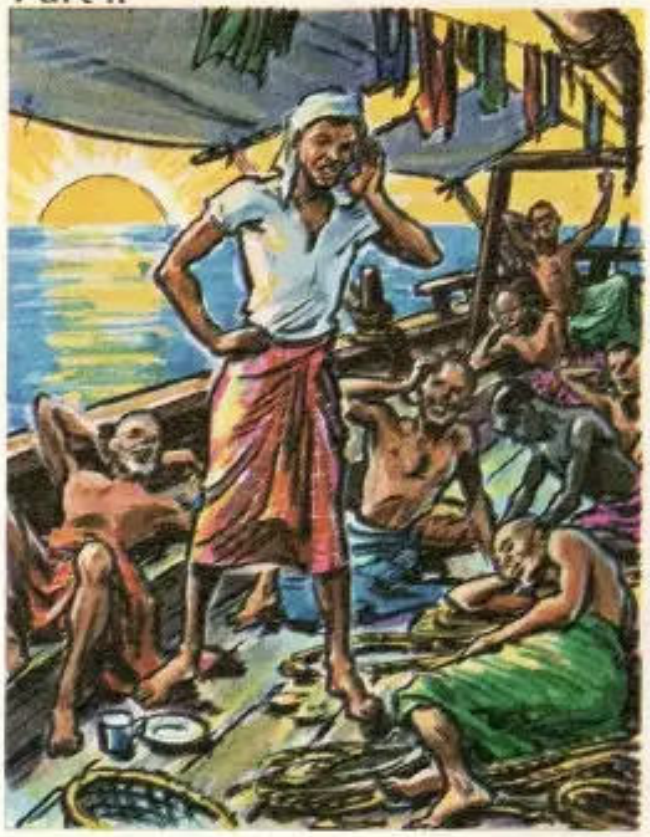


The food is ready now. They have put it on a large plate. The men are ready to eat it. Now they are sitting round it and eating. The air is cool. The men are hungry. They eat a lot.

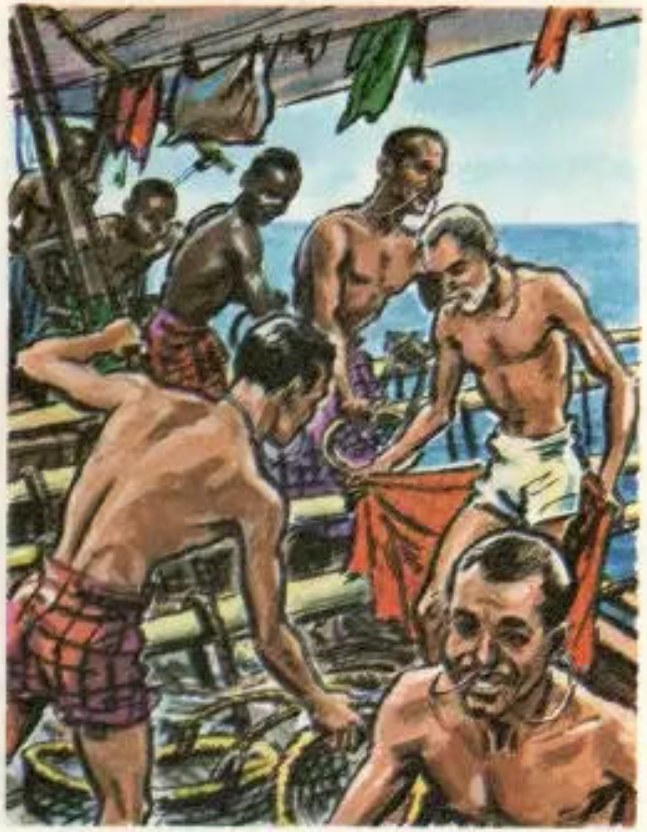


Now it is night. The moon is rising in the sky. There are a lot of stars in the sky. The men are sitting together. Some of them are singing songs. Others are telling stories. Soon they will go to bed.

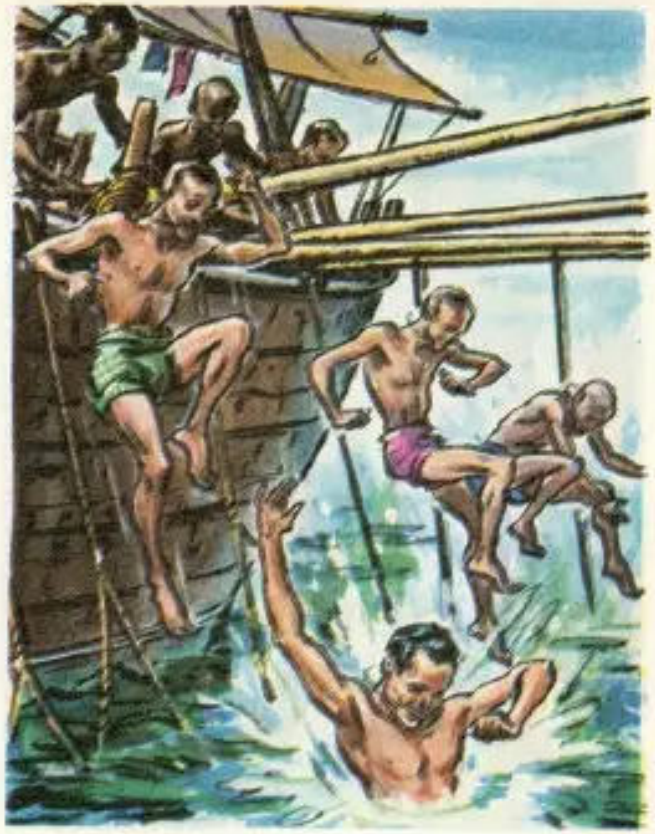
Part II



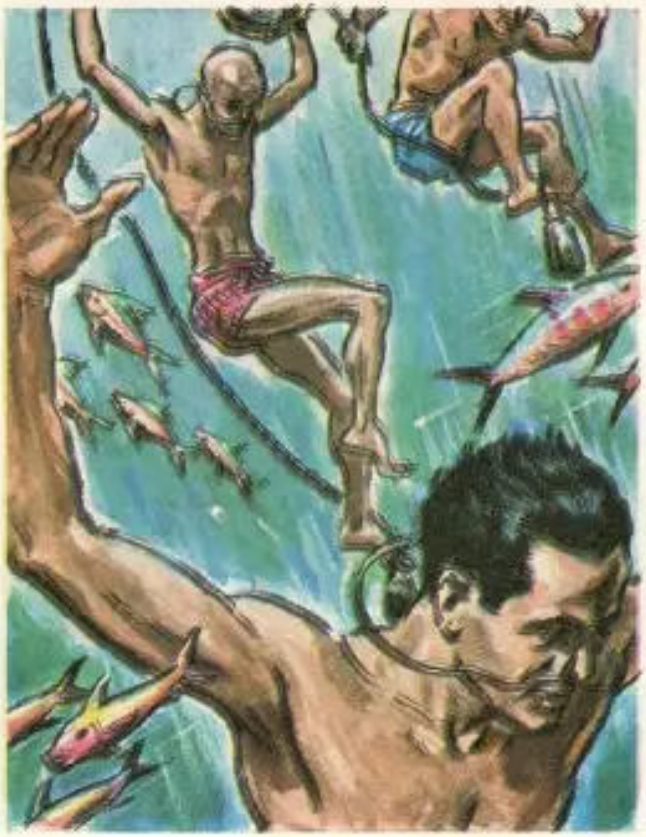
It is early morning now. The sun is just rising. Captain Jasem stops the ship. Jasem is the head of the ship. He is the captain. He is saying to the men, "Get up. You must work now."



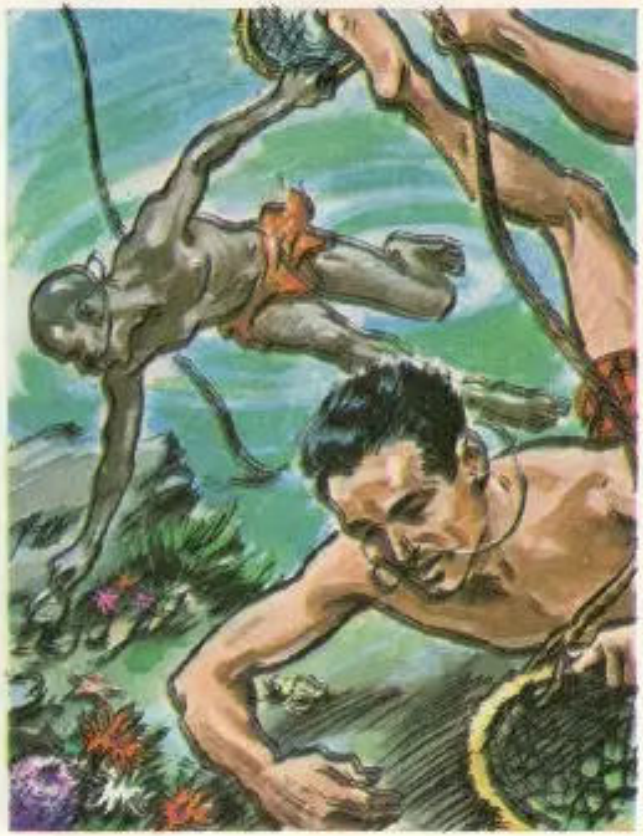
The men get up, but they do not eat anything. Now Hamad and the other men are taking off their clothes. Every man has shut his nose with a piece of wood (Futam). Now they are ready. Every man is holding a rope and carrying a basket.



"Jump," says the captain. "Dive into the water." Now they are jumping into the water. They are diving. They are divers. Hamad is a diver. He is holding a rope in his hand. The other end of the rope is tied to the ship.



Now they are all in the water. They are taking the baskets, under the sea. They are going down, down, down. They see a lot of fish round them. Some fish are small. Others are big. Some are beautiful. Others are not. They all swim away from the divers.

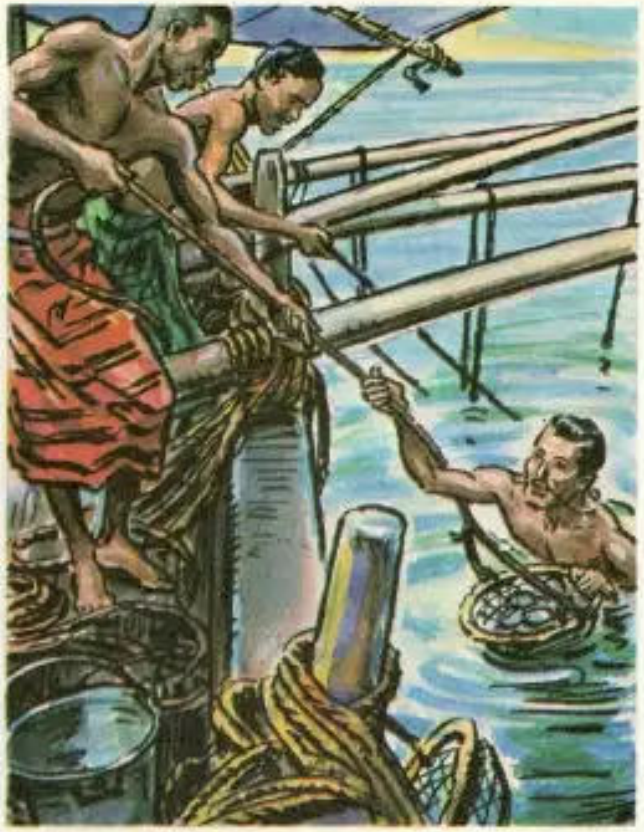


Now Hamad is at the bottom of the sea. Other men are there too. They are looking for something. There are many things at the bottom of the sea. Hamad can see many beautiful things there.

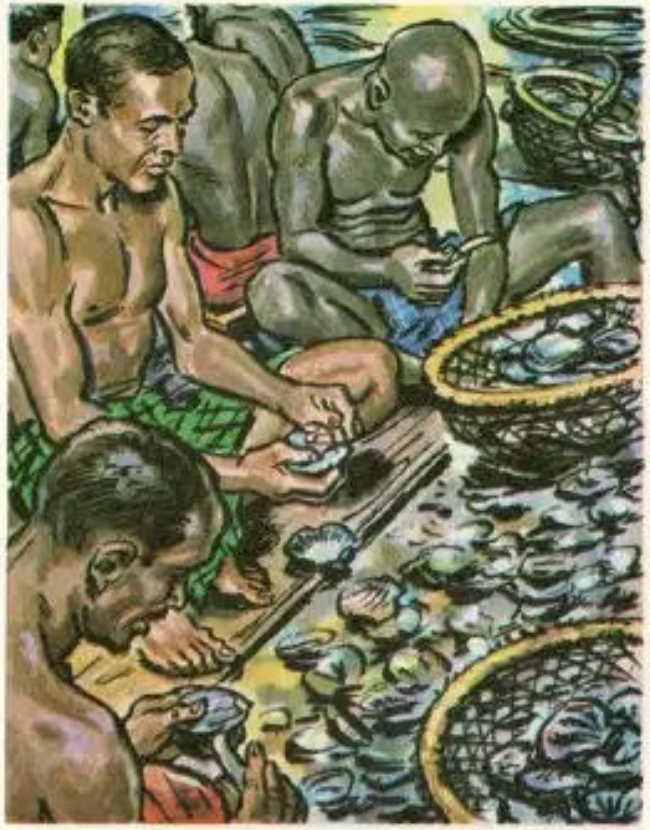
You can see many shells in this picture. Some shells have small fish in them. Others have no fish. They have pearls. Pearls are beautiful. Women like them very much.

Hamad and the men are looking for shells. They will find pearls in some of them.

Hamad is taking some shells from the bottom of the sea. He is putting them in his basket. In three or four minutes he will pull the rope. Men on the ship will pull him up. He will give them the shells.

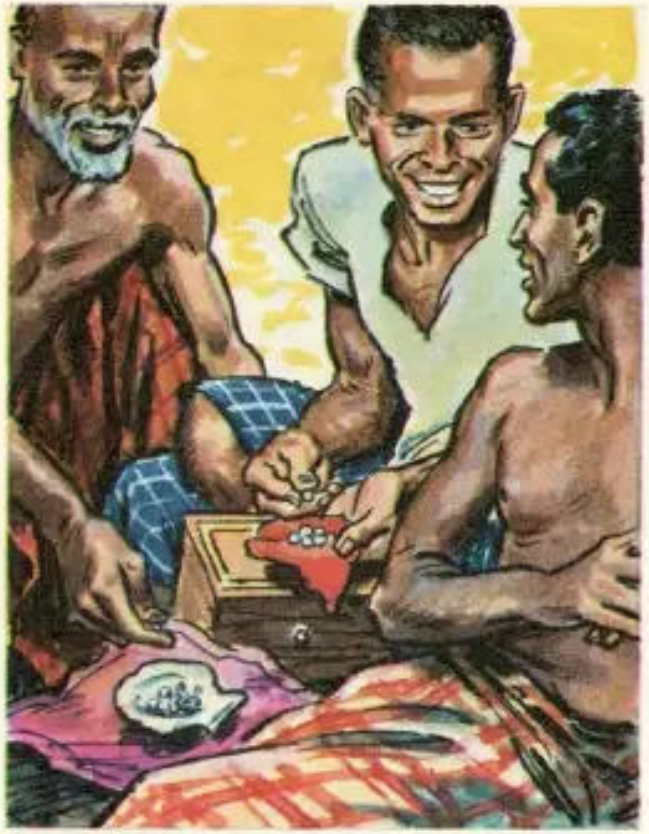


Hamad has put many shells in his basket. But he is tired. He wants to have some air. He pulls the rope. The men pull him up. He gives the shells to the men on the ship. Then he goes down again.

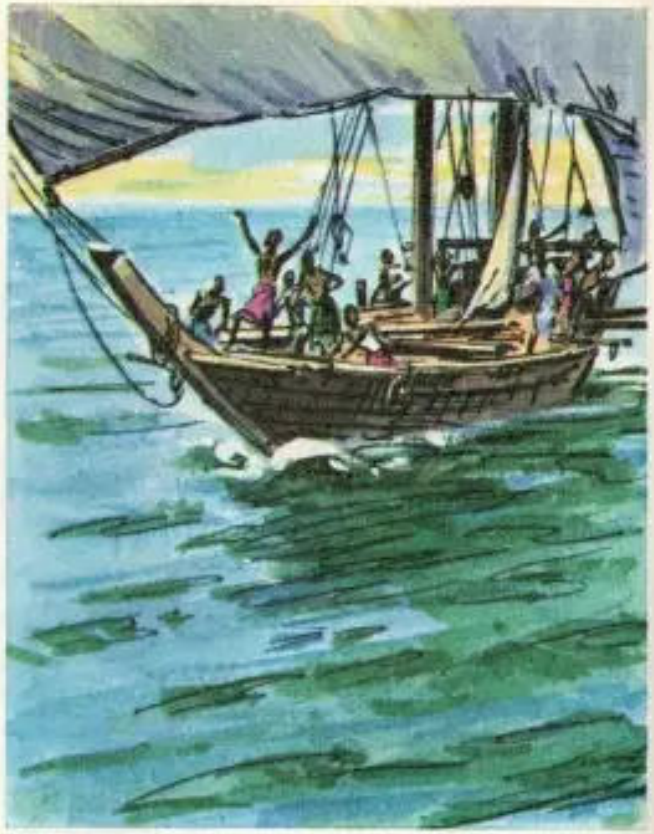


Hamad and the men work in the sea for a long time. They put shells in their baskets and take them up to the ship. Other men on the ship open the shells. They are hard. They open them with knives.

They do not find a pearl in every shell. Some shells have pearls. But many shells have no pearls. Some pearls are small. Others are big. Small pearls are cheap. But big ones are not cheap. They are expensive.

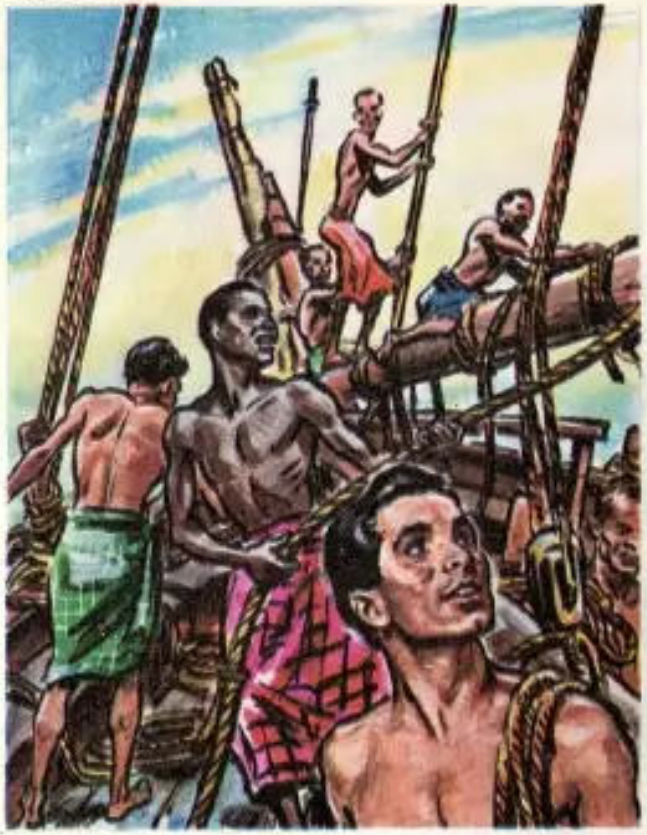


The divers finish a day's work. They sit together with the other men. They open shells too. They find some pearls. They are happy. They give all the pearls to the captain. He takes all the pearls.

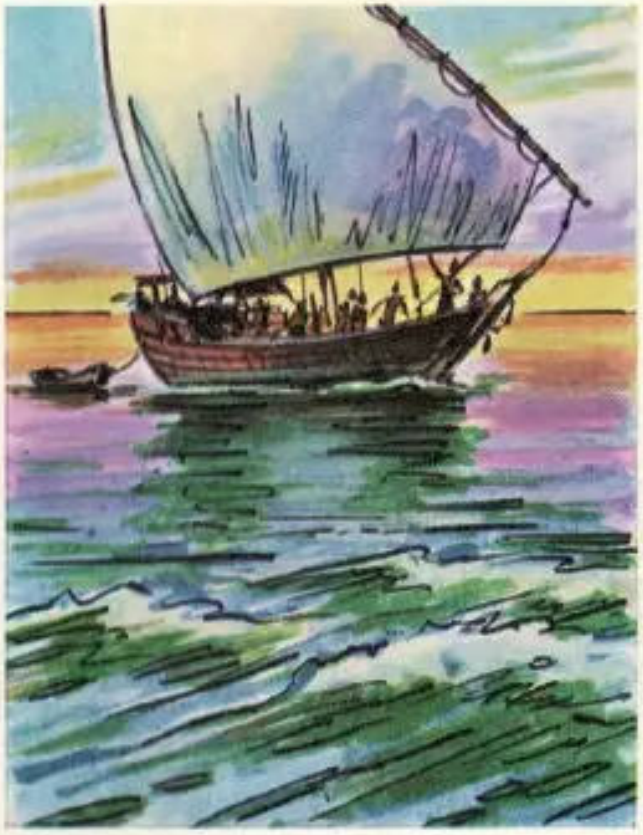


In the evening they eat. They dance and sing, too. The work is hard but the men are happy. They work hard and get money for their families. Their wives and children are waiting at home. They need money for food and clothes.

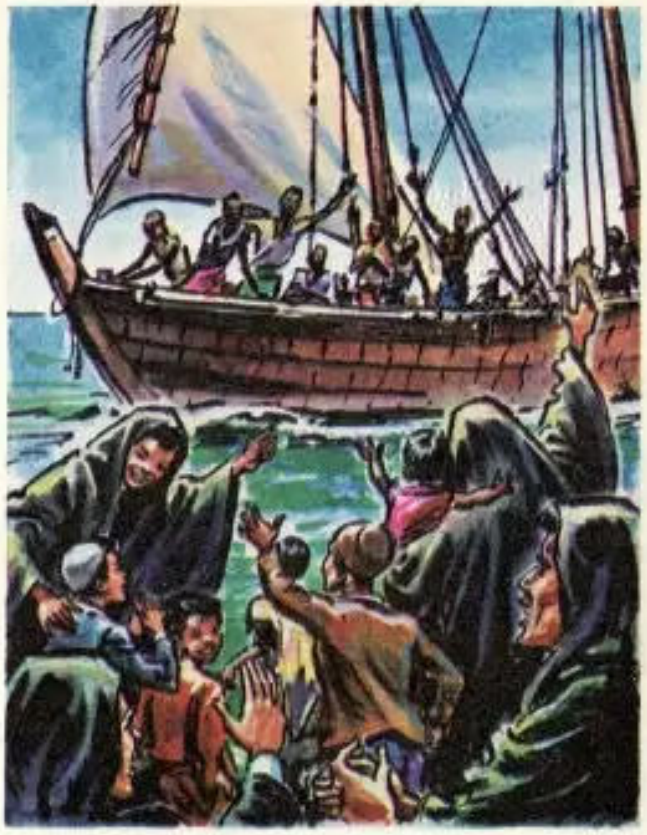
Part III



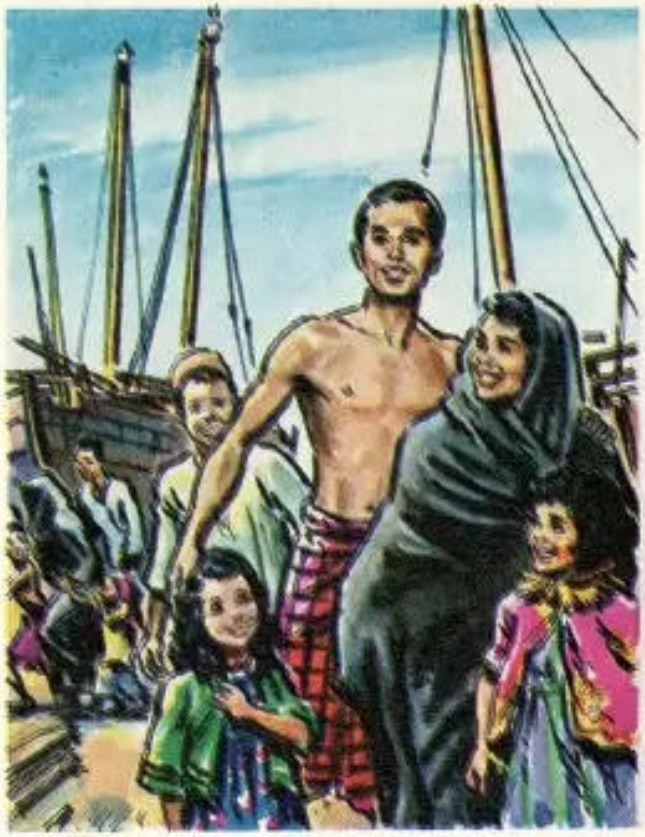
The men have stayed on the ship for two months. They have found a lot of pearls, but they are very tired. They are thin and weak. There isn't much food on the ship and the water is not good. They want to go home to their families.



Now they are going back. The ship is good. The wind is soft. They will be in Kuwait in a few days. The men are happy to go home.

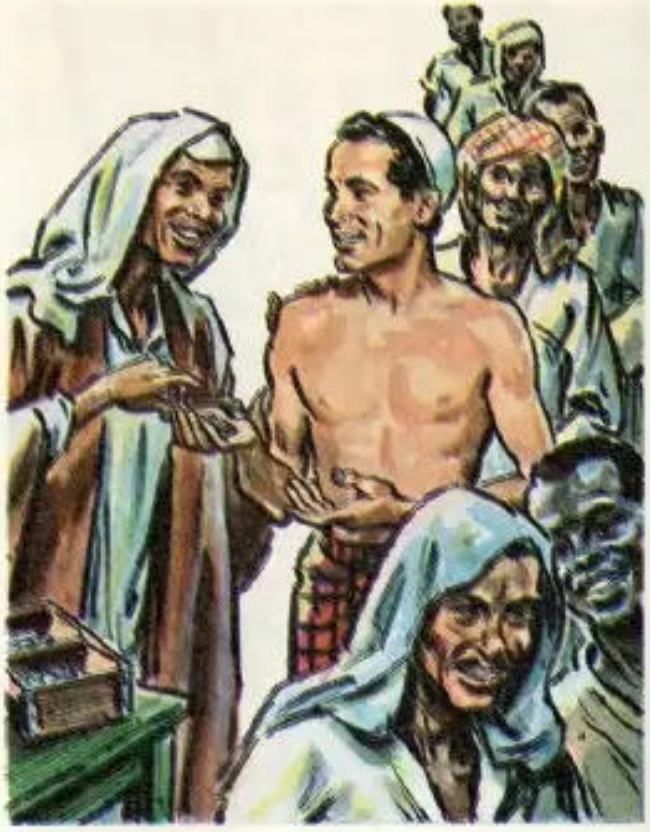


Now they are very near home. Their wives and children go to the seaside and wait. The ship comes very near the land. All the seamen are standing on one side of the ship. They wave to the people on the land. They are very happy.



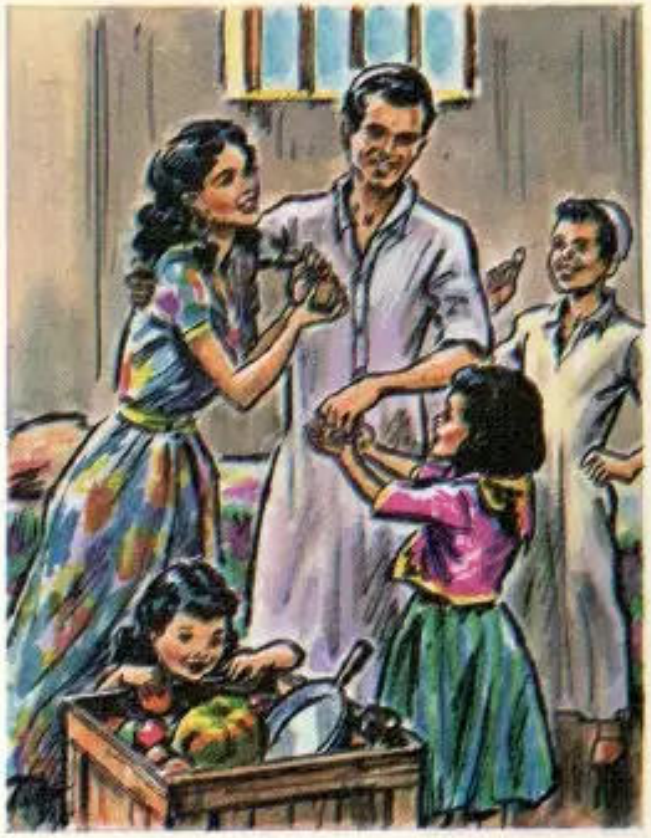
The ship has reached Kuwait. It has stopped. The seamen jump off the ship and look for their wives and children. They find them and then they all go home.

In the morning the captain goes to the market. He goes to Haj Ali. Haj Ali has a shop. He is a shopkeeper. He buys and sells pearls. The captain gives him the pearls, and he gives the captain a lot of money.



The captain calls Hamad and the other divers. He gives every diver some money. It is not much, but everybody is happy. Hamad takes his money. He thanks the captain. He says "Thank you."

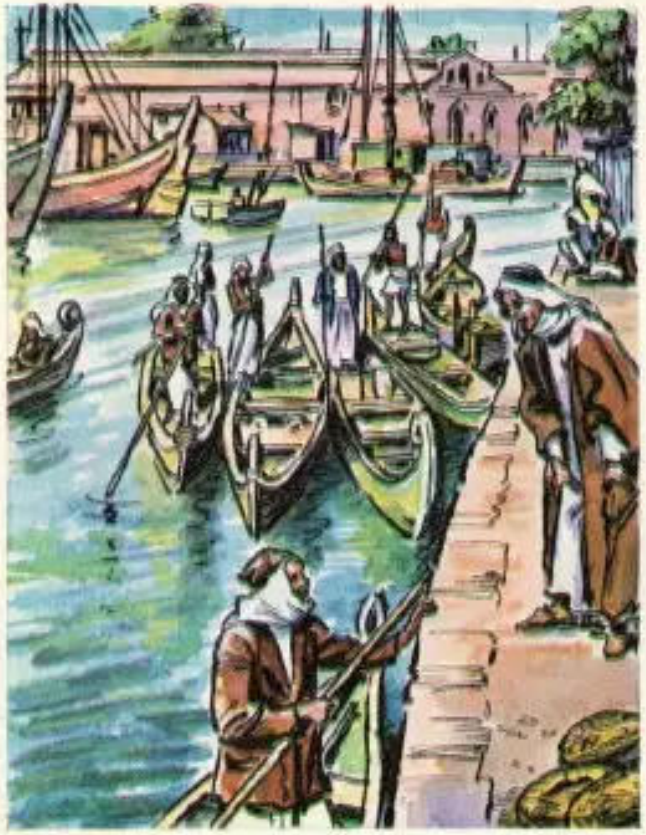
Part IV



Hamad goes home. Now he has a little money. He gives some to his children. He gives some to his wife. He buys food and clothes. He buys other things for the house. He keeps some money for the winter.

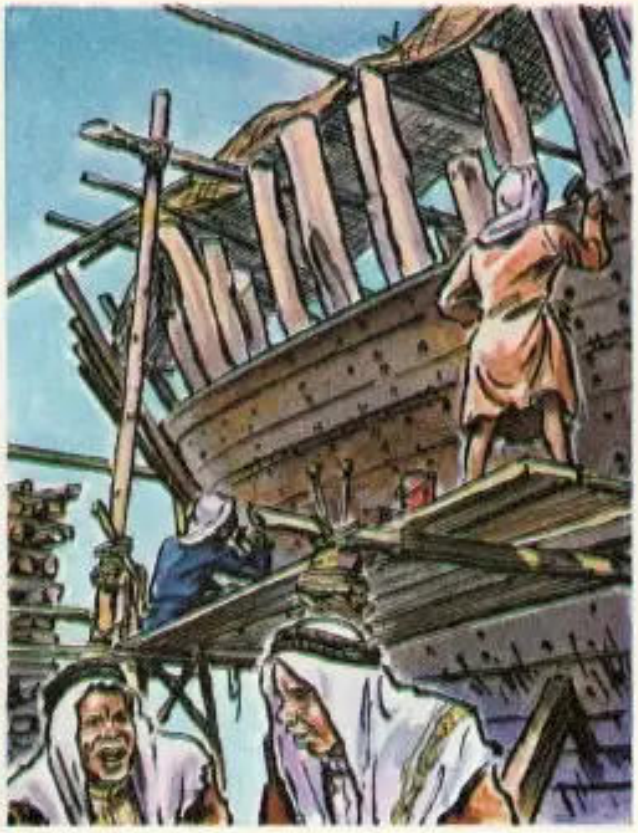
Hamad is poor. He stays at home for many months. He does not work. Now he hasn't any money. He must work on the ship again. Hamad wants a lot of money. He wants to become rich, but he cannot.

This is a map of Iraq. Iraq is a big country. It has many cities. It has many towns too. You can see Basra on the map. Basra is in Iraq. It is a big town. It is not far from Kuwait.



Basra is very near Kuwait. It is not on the sea. It is on a river. The river is Shatt-ul-Arab.

People from Kuwait visit Basra. Some have friends there. Others have relatives. They visit their friends and relatives.



People of Basra build ships. They go on the sea in these ships. People of Kuwait build strong ships, too. They go on them and dive for pearls. They buy and sell things, too. Some of them are rich.

Fatima is a very beautiful woman. She lives in Basra. She has a lot of palm trees. She has a lot of money. She is very rich. She is very beautiful, too.

This is a palm tree. A palm tree gives us dates. Dates are very sweet. Everybody likes them. There are a lot of palm trees in Basra. The people of Basra sell a lot of dates. They get a lot of money for them.

Fatima has a lot of palm trees. She takes the fruit from those trees. She sells them. She gets a lot of money. She is very rich. She is rich, but she is not happy.

Fatima is rich and beautiful. But she is not married. She has no husband. Many men want to marry Fatima. Some of them are young. Some are very rich. But Fatima does not like any of them.

One day her father says to her, "Fatima, you are my only daughter. I love you very much, but you are not happy. You have no brothers and sisters. You must marry a good man. Many men want to marry you."

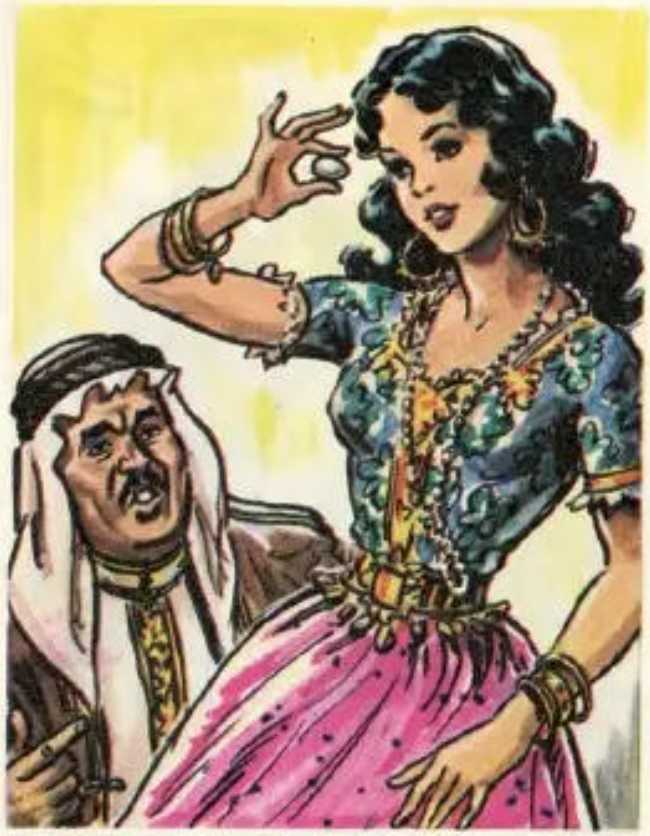
"I don't like them, father", Fatima says. "I don't like any of them. I don't want to marry any of them. I am very beautiful and rich. I shall soon find a man, and I shall marry him."

"What sort of man do you want to marry, Fatima?" her father asks. "Many men have come to you. Some are young. Others are rich. But you don't want any of them. What sort of man do you want to marry?"

"I don't want to marry a rich man. I don't want a fat man or a tall man. I want to marry a brave man. A brave man is not afraid of the sea. He is not afraid of anything. I want to marry a very brave man."

"But there are many brave men in Basra," says the father. "There are many others in Kuwait. There are many in Bahrain and in Qatar. There are many in other parts of Arabia. Don't you want to marry one of them?"

"My husband must be a very brave man," Fatima says. "He must go out in a small boat. He must dive alone into very deep water and look for pearls. Nobody must dive with him."

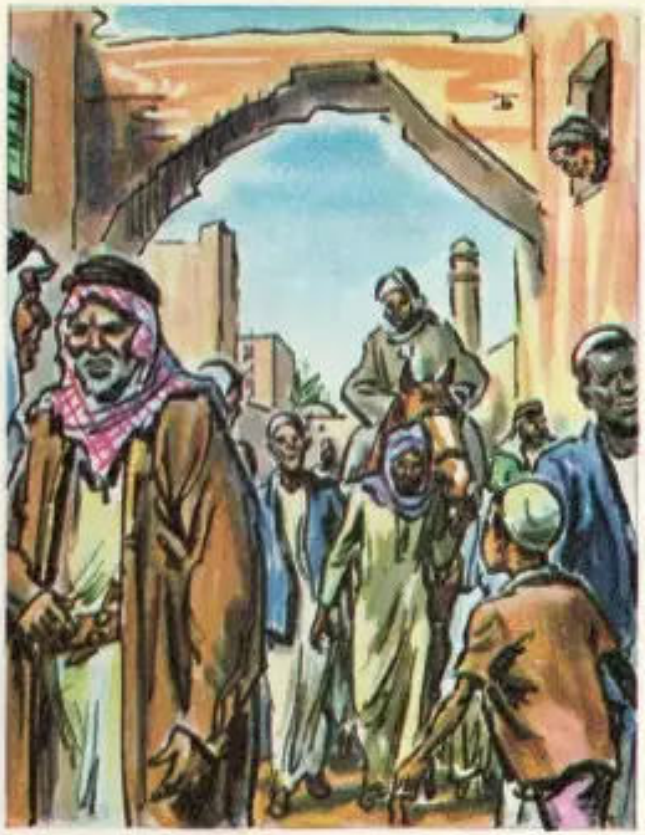


"Do you see this egg, father? It is a bird's egg. The man must bring me a big pearl. It must be as big as this egg. Then I shall marry him."

The father goes to the market. He sits in his shop. He is sad. Some friends come into the shop. They ask Fatima's father, "Why are you sad now?" He tells them Fatima's story.

"I am sad because my daughter is not going to get married. Nobody can find a pearl as big as a bird's egg."
His friends become sad, too.

The men go out of the shop. They go to other shops. They meet other friends. They see other people and tell them the story. They tell them Fatima's story. Everybody in Basra hears the story.



Other men from Arabia visit Basra. They come from Kuwait, from Bahrain and from Qatar. They come from Dubai, from Nejd and from Hejaz. Men from Oman, from Hadramout and from Yemen visit Basra too.

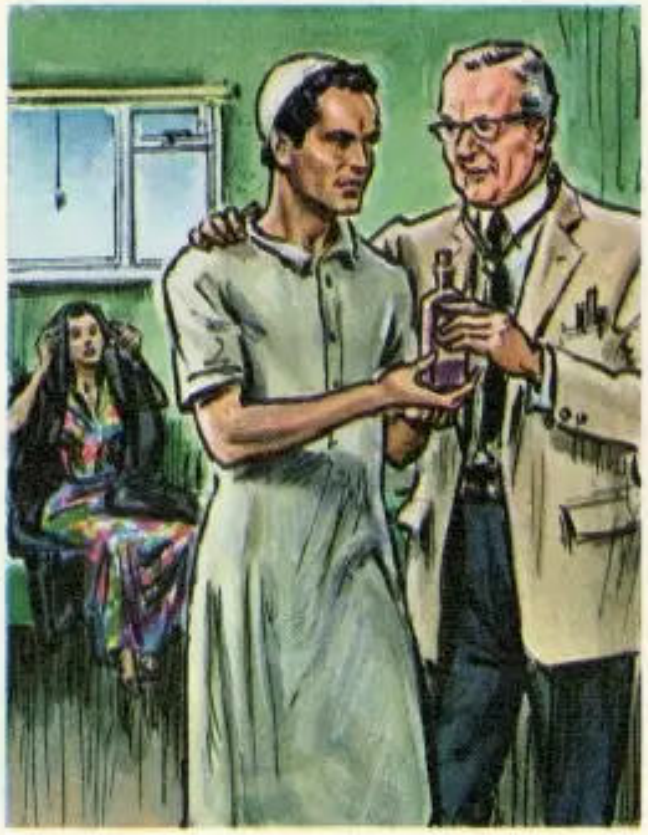
You can see all those places on the map. Perhaps you live in one of them.

Men from all parts of Arabia come to Basra. They all hear Fatima's story.

Part V

Hamad has no work. He has only a little money. He wants to dive for pearls again. Perhaps he can get a lot of money this time.

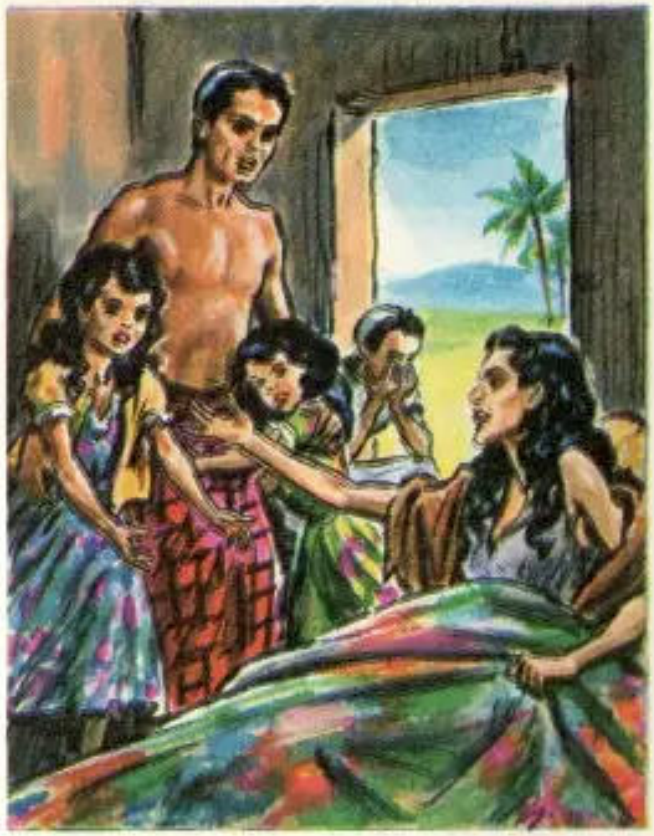
But Hamad is not happy now. He is very sad. Why is he sad? He is sad because his wife is ill. She is very ill. She may die.



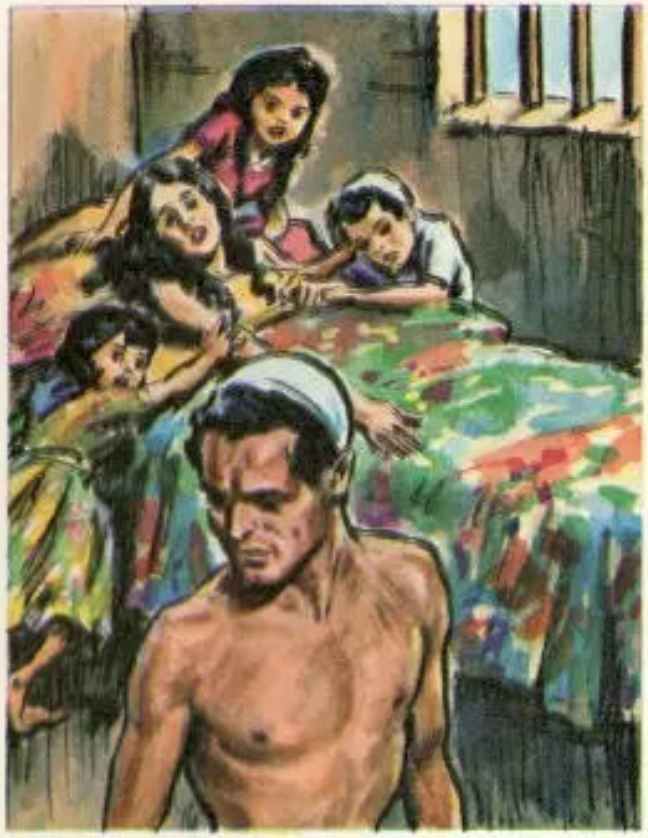
Hamad takes his wife to a doctor. The doctor looks at her. He examines her. He examines her body. "Your wife is very ill," the doctor says to Hamad. "Take this medicine. Your wife must drink the medicine. She may become well again."

"Thank you, doctor," says Hamad. He takes his wife home. She stays in bed. He gives her medicine every three hours. He stays near her all day.

Hamad loves his wife. She is very ill, and he is sad.



But Hamad's wife does not become well. She becomes very thin and weak. She cannot eat. "Hamad," she says. "I am going to die. The medicine will not make me well again. Please look after the children. They are very young."



"Do not stay alone, Hamad. Marry a good woman. She will look after our children. You cannot cook their food, Hamad, and you can't wash their clothes. Please marry a good girl."

After a few days she dies. Hamad and the children are very sad.

Two months pass. Hamad cannot look after the children. They are unhappy. Hamad goes to Basra. He has relatives there. Perhaps he can find a good girl in Basra. But Hamad hears Fatima's story. He does not look for a wife. He does not marry. He goes back home.

Hamad has not forgotten Fatima. He says, "I am poor. But I am strong and brave. Perhaps I can find a big pearl. Perhaps I can marry Fatima and become rich. Then my children will be happy."

He has come to his home in Kuwait. His children are dirty. Their hair is long. They have no shoes. They are unhappy and he becomes unhappy, too.

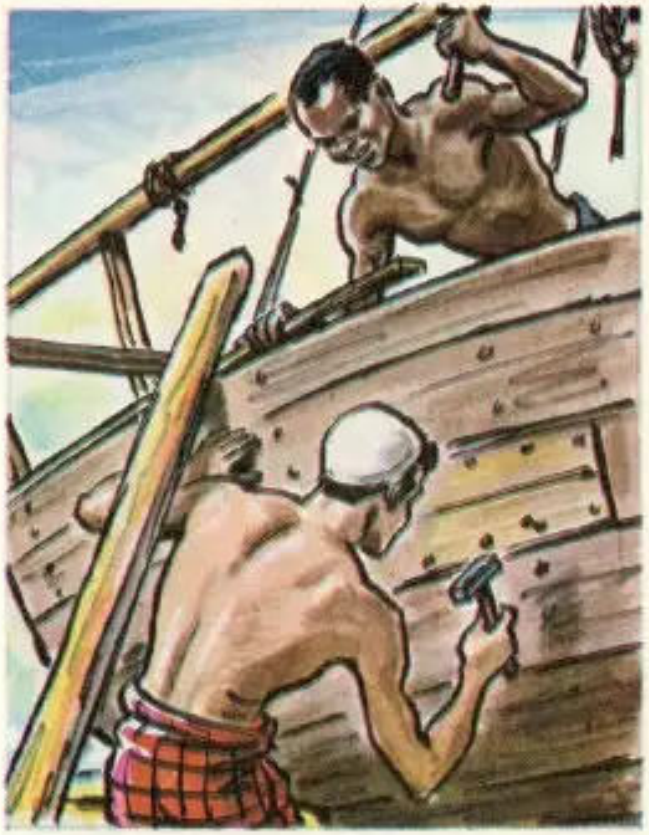
"I must find that pearl and marry Fatima," he says.

Hamad goes to see his friend, Ali. Ali is a diver, too. Hamad tells him Fatima's story.

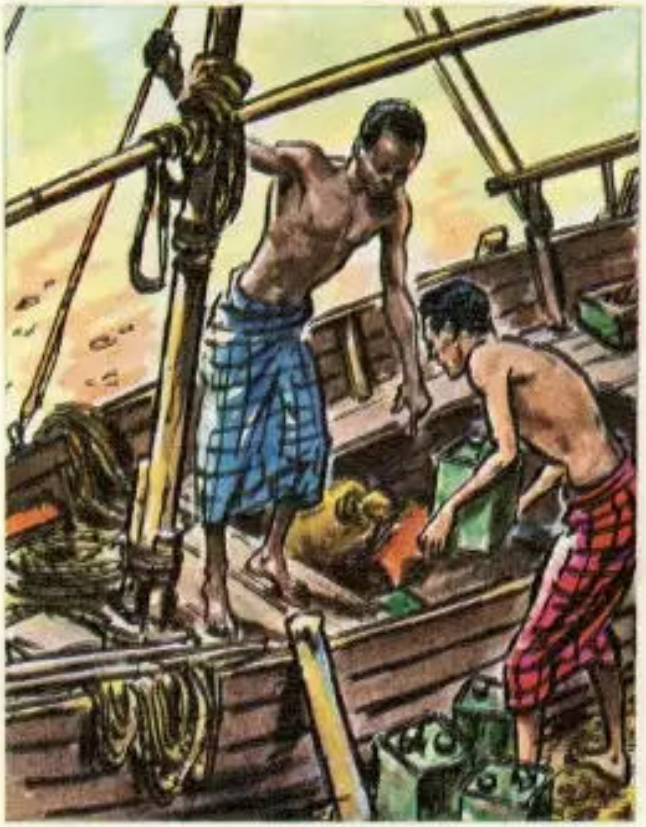
"But you can't do that, Hamad," Ali says. "You'll die in the sea. Or you'll die of hunger."

But Hamad must go, and Ali is his friend. Ali likes him very much. He must help him. "All right. I'll come with you, Hamad," Ali says. "You can't go alone. We are friends. We may die together."

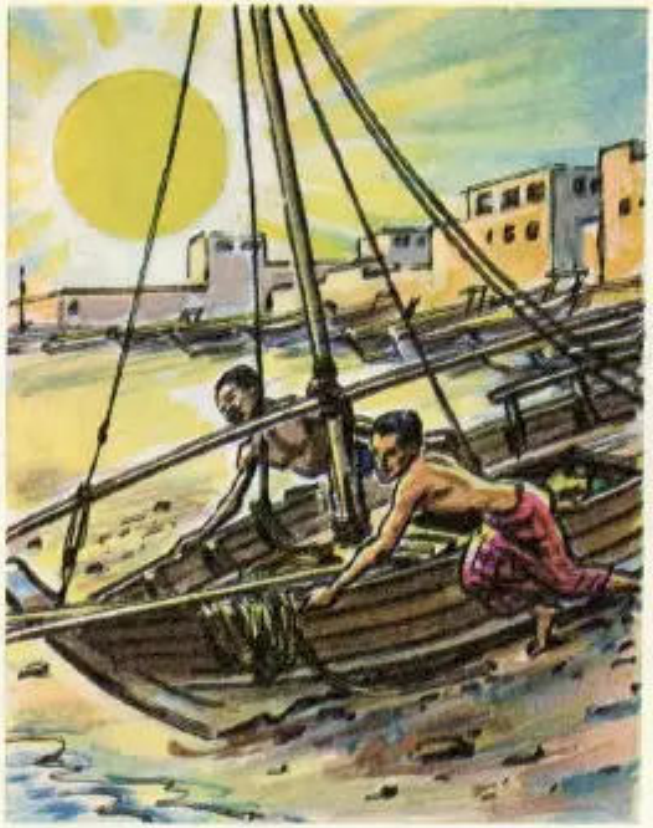
It is morning now. Hamad and Ali go to the seaside. They are looking for a boat. They cannot buy an expensive boat. They buy a cheap one. It is small and it is not very strong.



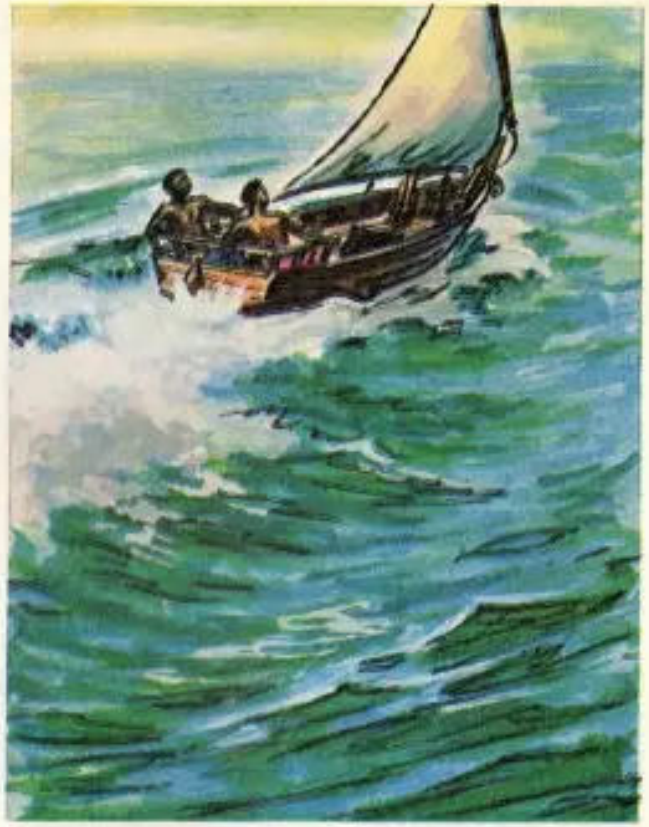
Every day Hamad and Ali go to the seaside. They work on the boat. They want to make it strong. It is only a small boat, but soon it will be very strong.



After a few days they have finished the boat. It is good and strong now. They go to the market and buy some food. They put some water in tins. Then they put the food and the water in the boat.

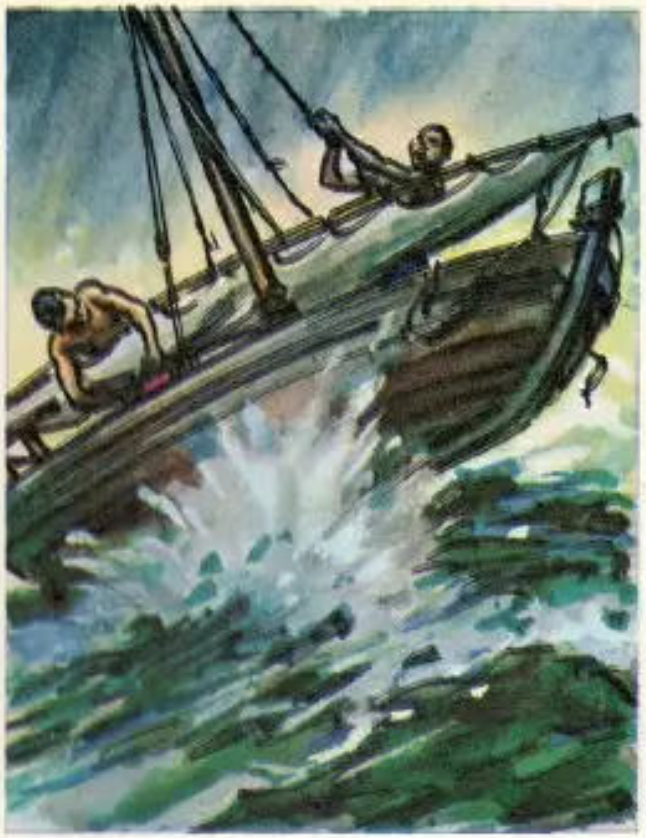


It is early morning. The sun is just rising. The sky is beautiful. It is going to be a hot day. Hamad and Ali are pulling the boat into the water. Soon they will be on the sea.

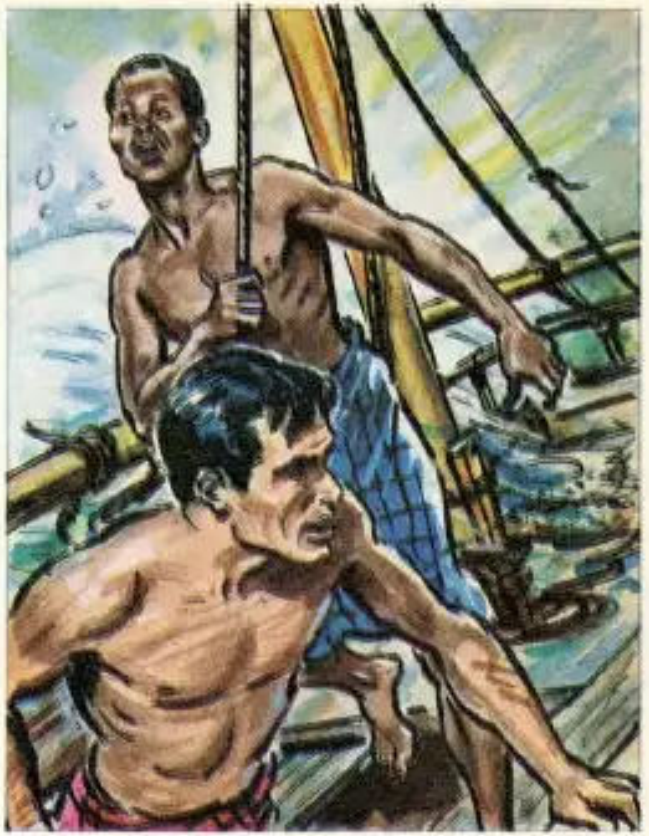


Now they are on the sea. They have put up the sail. The wind hits the sail and helps the boat to move quickly. Now they are far from land. They cannot see any houses. They are alone on the sea. The wind is soft, but the sun is hot. The boat is small and it moves quickly.

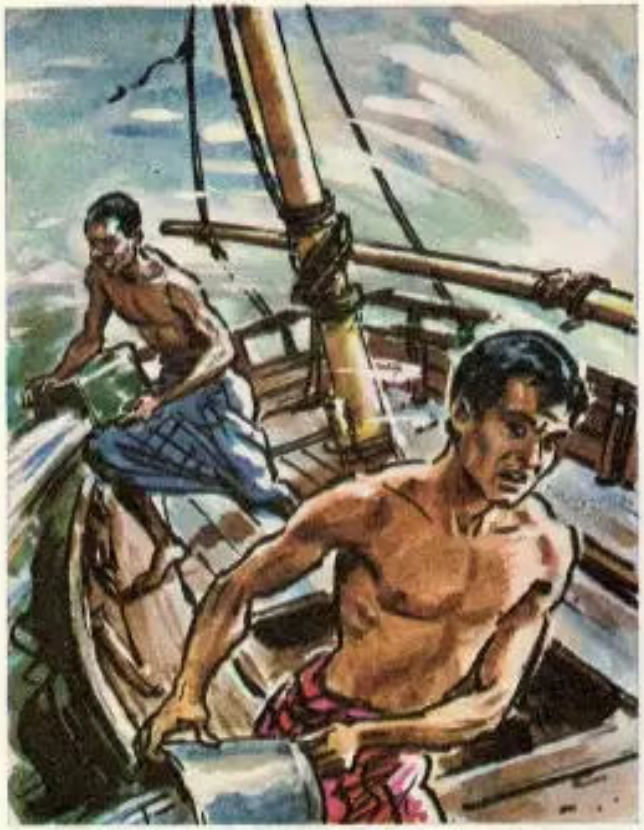
They sail for a few days. The weather is hot during the day. But it is cool at night. They eat a little food and drink a little water. They are young and strong, so they are not tired. They are pleased with the weather.



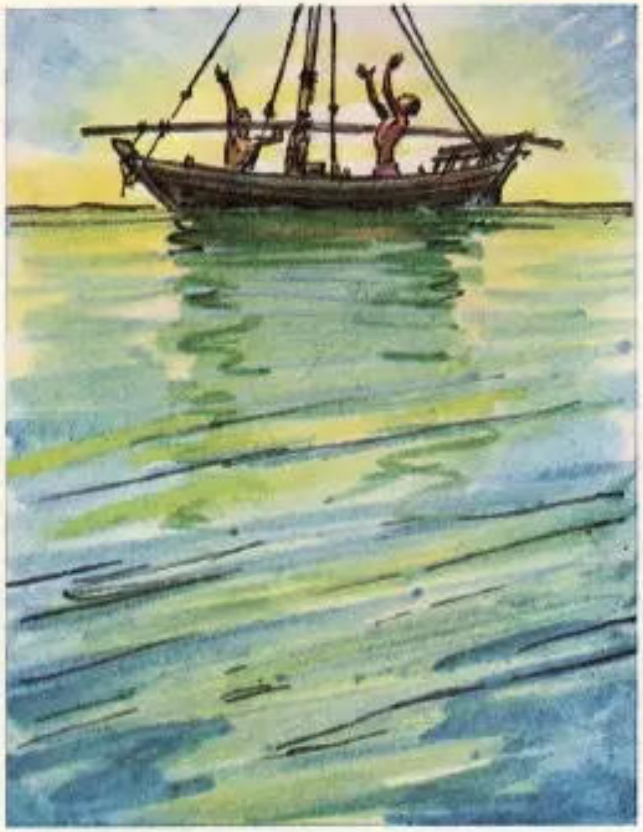
Suddenly a strong wind blows. The sea is not calm. There are big waves. The boat does not move quickly. It turns this way and that. It may turn over. Then the two men will fall into the sea. They will die.



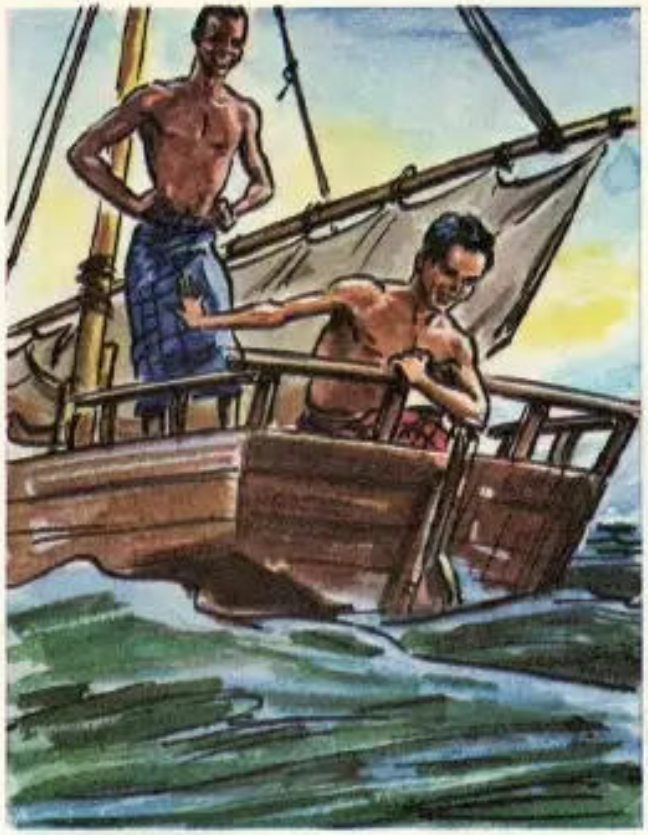
Hamad and Ali work very hard. They move from one side of the boat to the other. They are afraid. They don't want to die. Hamad wants to marry Fatima. He wants to see his family again.



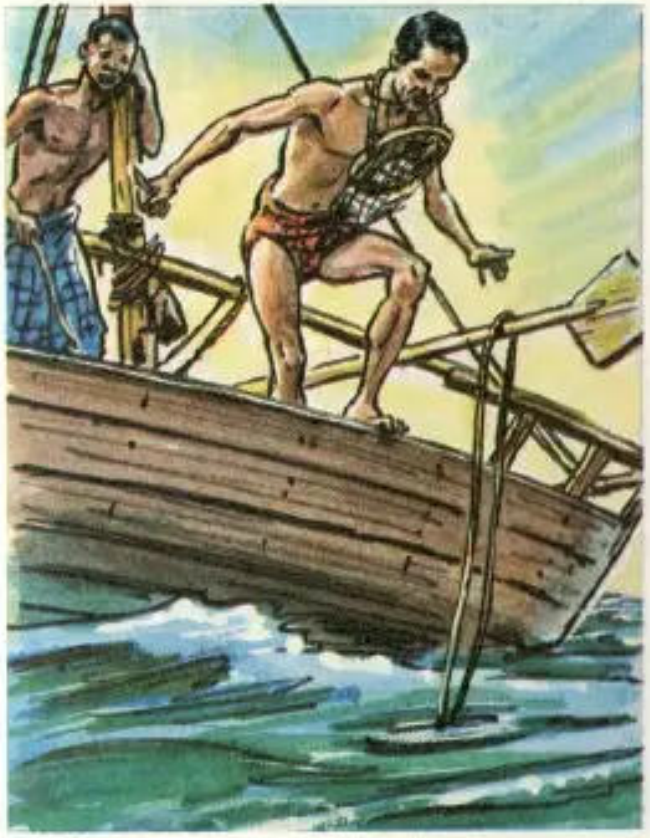
The wind blows strongly. It may break the boat to pieces. The men work very hard and throw the water out of the boat. They do this for many hours. They are very tired.



Then suddenly the wind drops. The sea becomes calm again. Hamad and Ali raise their hands. They thank Allah. He has helped them.

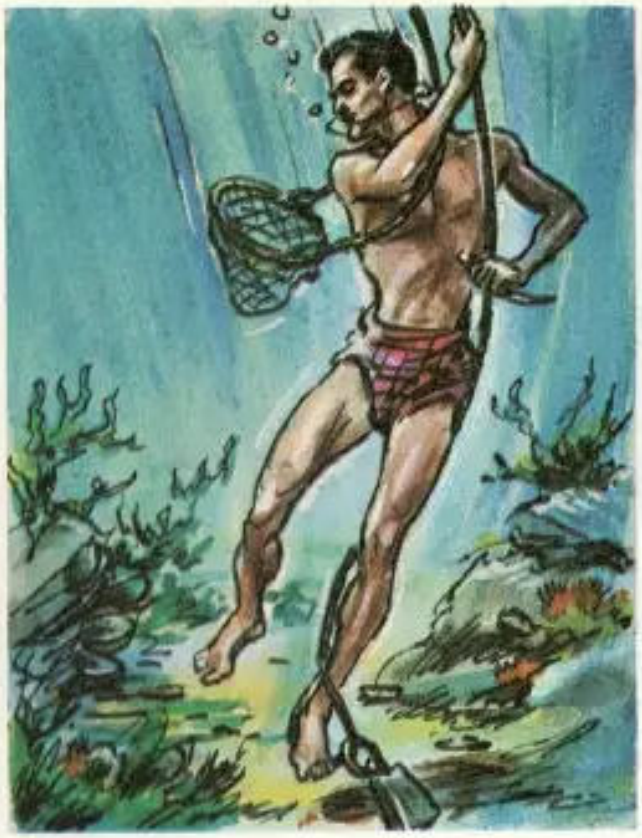


The boat sails on and on. Now it is in the middle of the sea. Suddenly Hamad stops the boat. "Ali, this is the place," he says. "Let us look for pearls here."

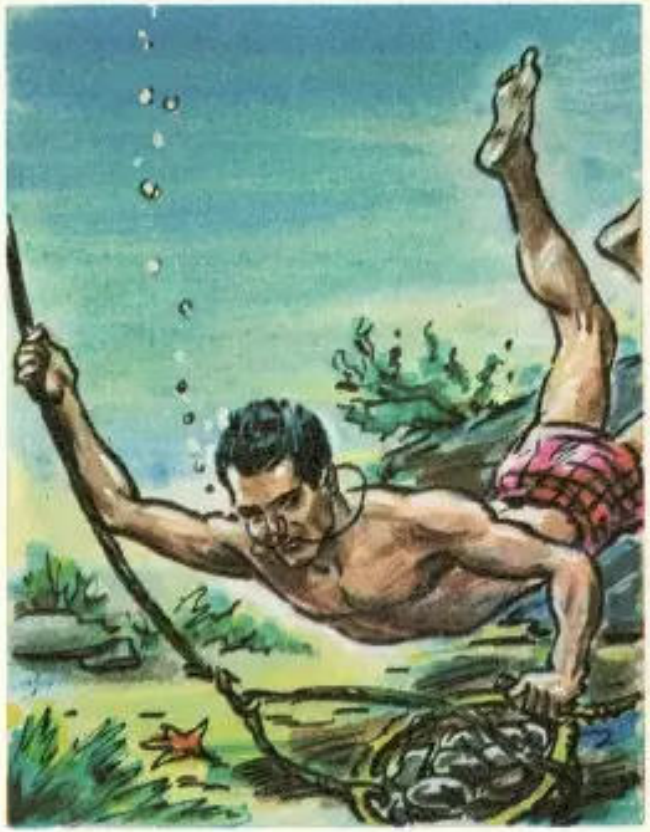


Hamad is going to dive. He won't let his friend do that. He must look for the big pearl alone. Ali must stay in the boat.

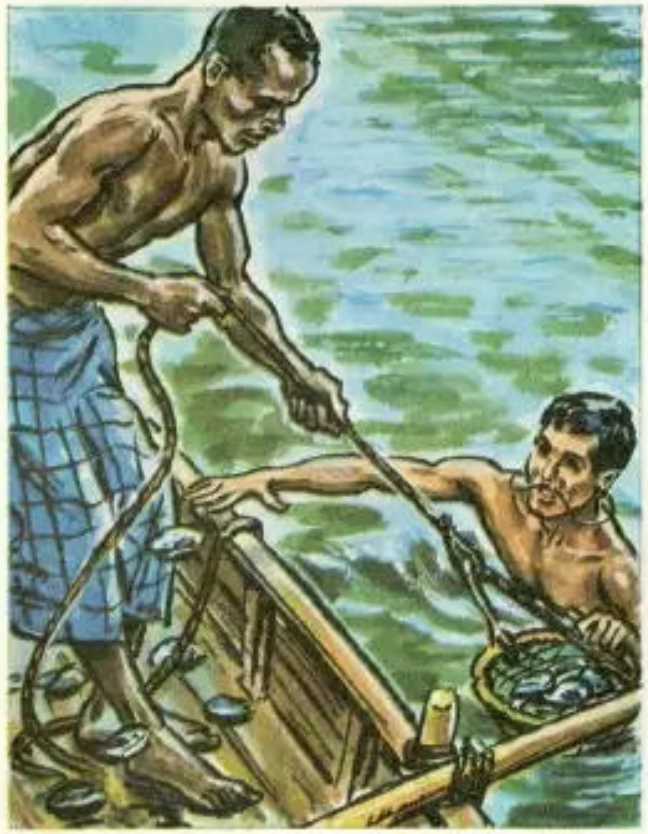
Hamad takes off his clothes. He is holding the rope. Now he is ready.



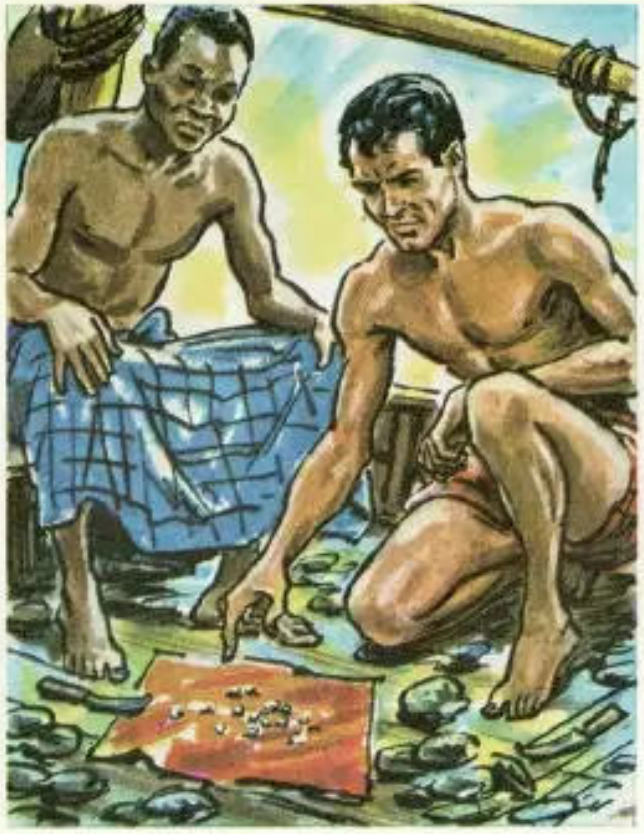
Down into the water he goes. Down, down, down. Now he is at the bottom of the sea. The water is very deep here. There are a lot of shells at the bottom of the sea. Hamad takes his sharp knife.



One, two, six, ten shells. Hamad cuts them from the rocks and puts them in the basket. He can't stay long in the water. He pulls the rope. Ali will soon pull him up.



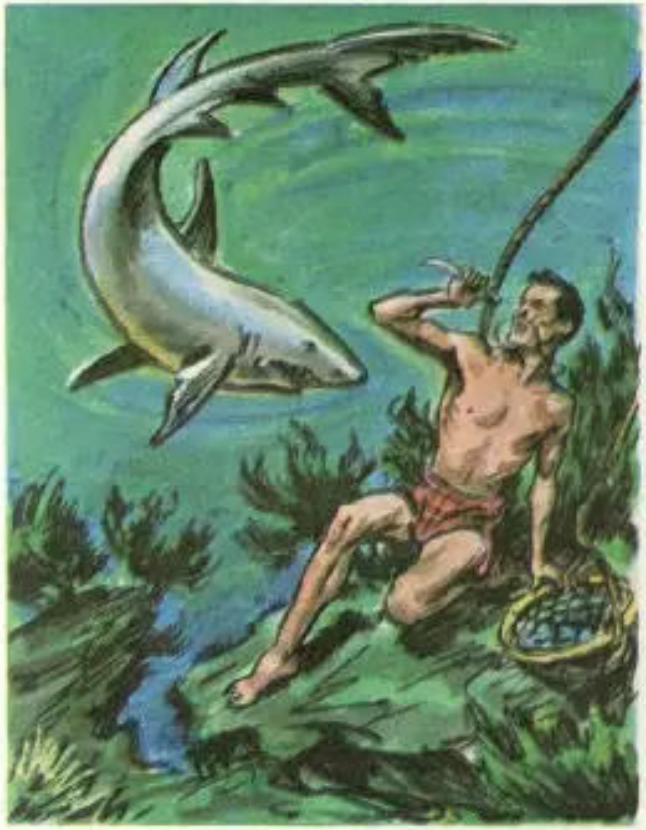
Now he is up. He fills his body with air. He throws the shells into the boat. Then he dives down again.



Again and again he dives into the water. He finds a lot of shells. There are a lot of shells in the boat now.

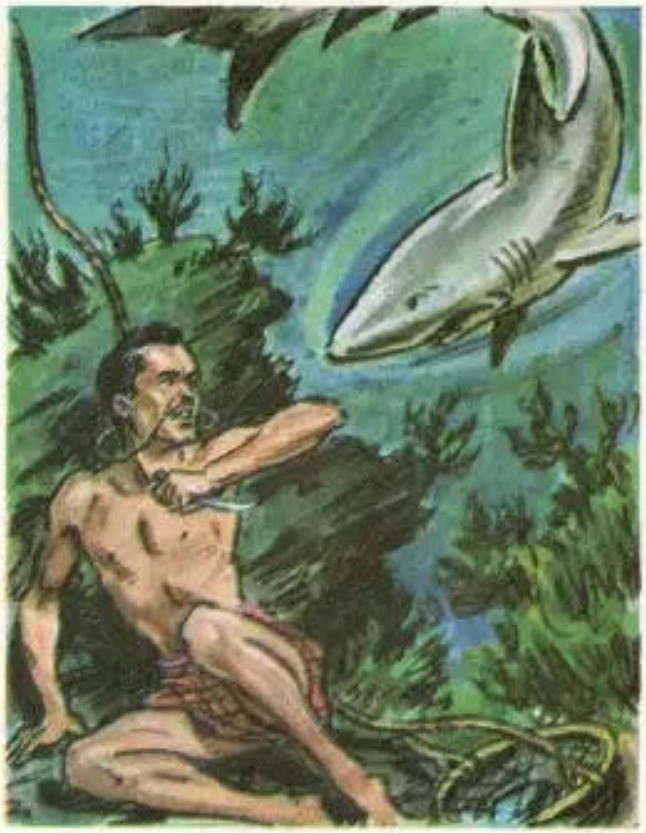
Hamad and Ali open the shells with their knives. They find some pearls. But they are all small ones.

On the fourth day Hamad and Ali get up. It is early morning. They are tired. They don't have much food and water. This is their last day. Hamad will dive only today. Perhaps he will find a big pearl, perhaps not. But they must sail back home today.

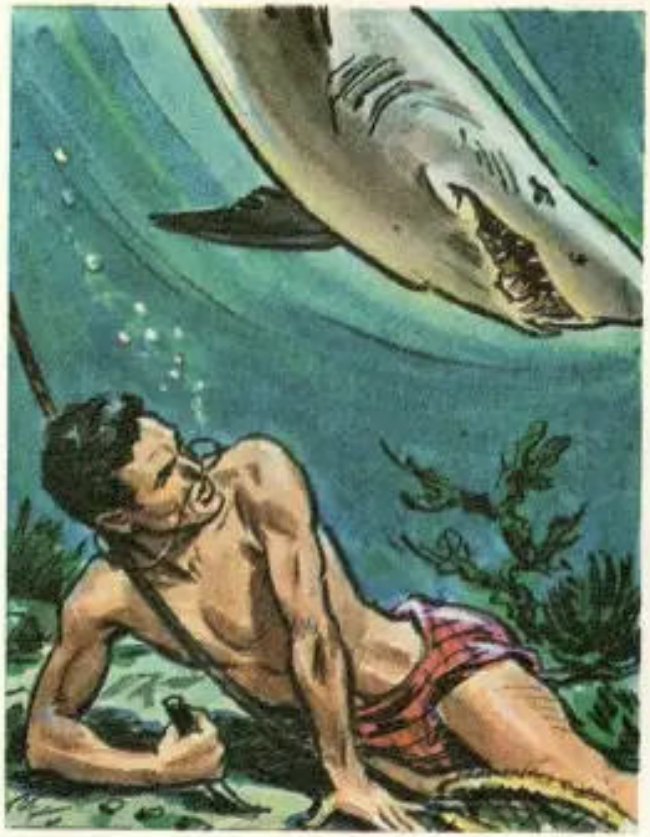


Now Hamad has dived to the bottom again. He finds some big shells. He puts them in the basket. Suddenly he sees a very big fish. It is a shark. He is very afraid. The shark may kill him.

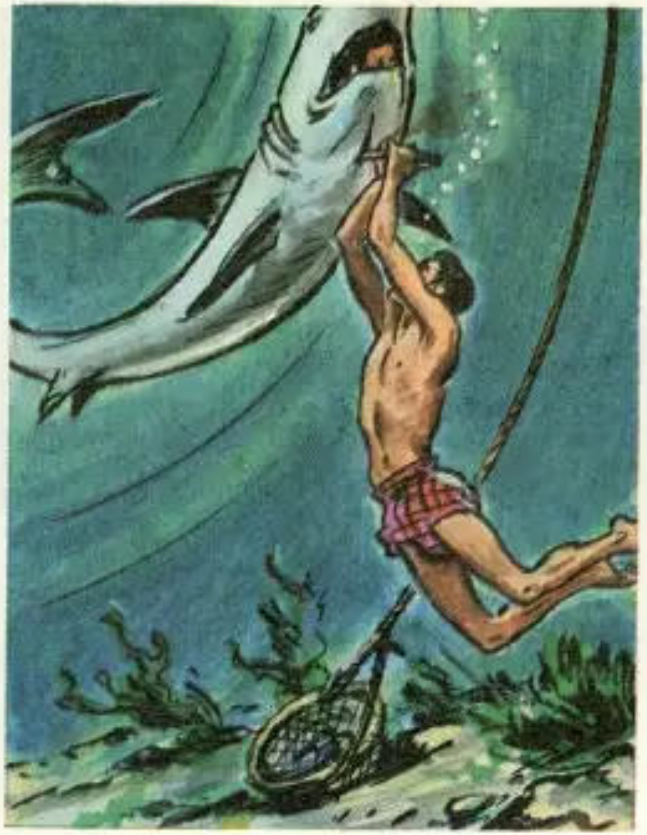
This is a picture of a shark. It is a very big fish. It has long sharp teeth. It bites people with its teeth. It can cut parts from their bodies, and can kill people and eat them.



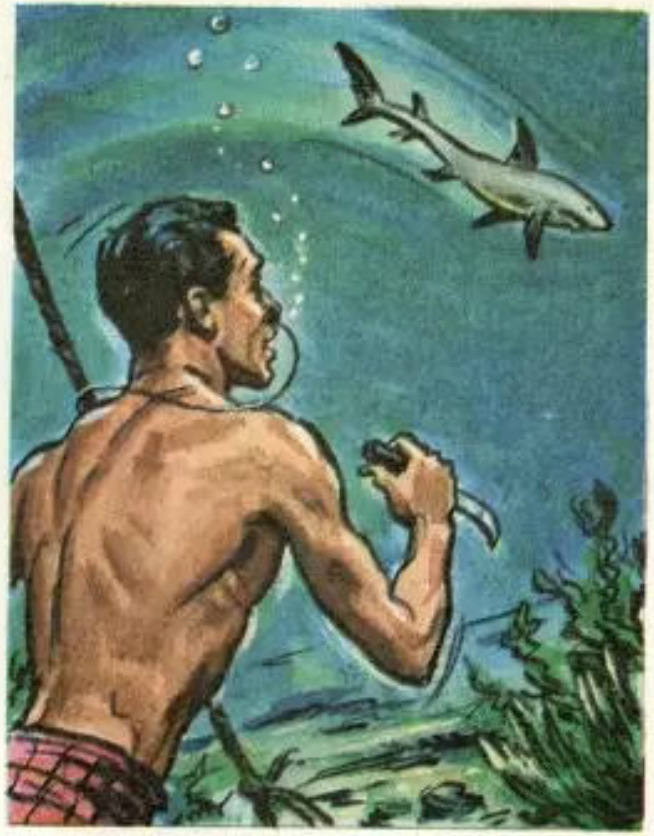
Hamad sees the shark. The shark sees him. It is swimming towards him now. Sharks swim very quickly. Hamad is afraid. He hides behind a big rock. But the shark sees him. It swims towards him. It wants to bite him.



Hamad is afraid. He is tired, too. He wants air. But he cannot go up now. The shark may bite him. It may kill him. But he does not want to die. He must live. He must go back to his children.

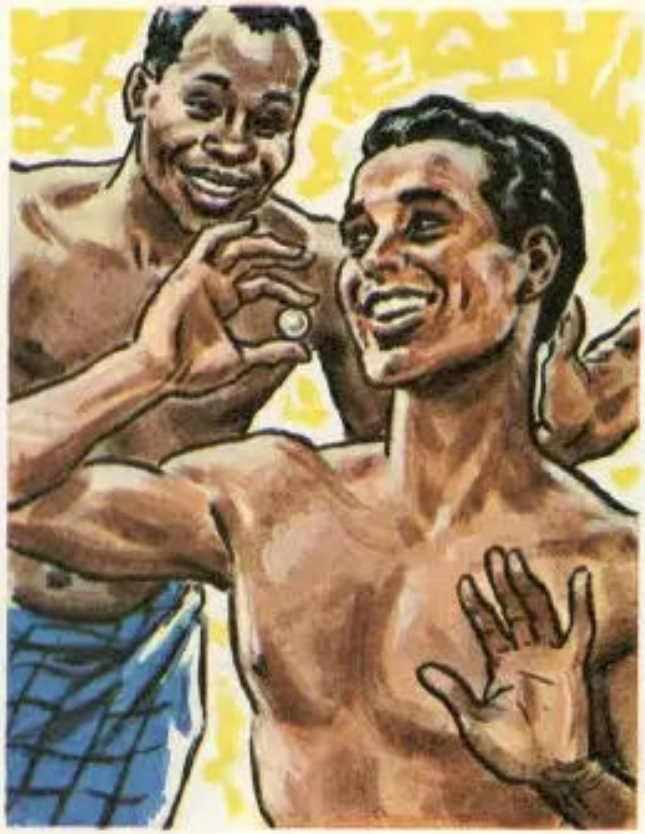


Now Hamad is not afraid. He is brave and he must kill the shark. He has taken a sharp knife. Now Hamad is fighting with the shark. He hits the shark with his sharp knife.



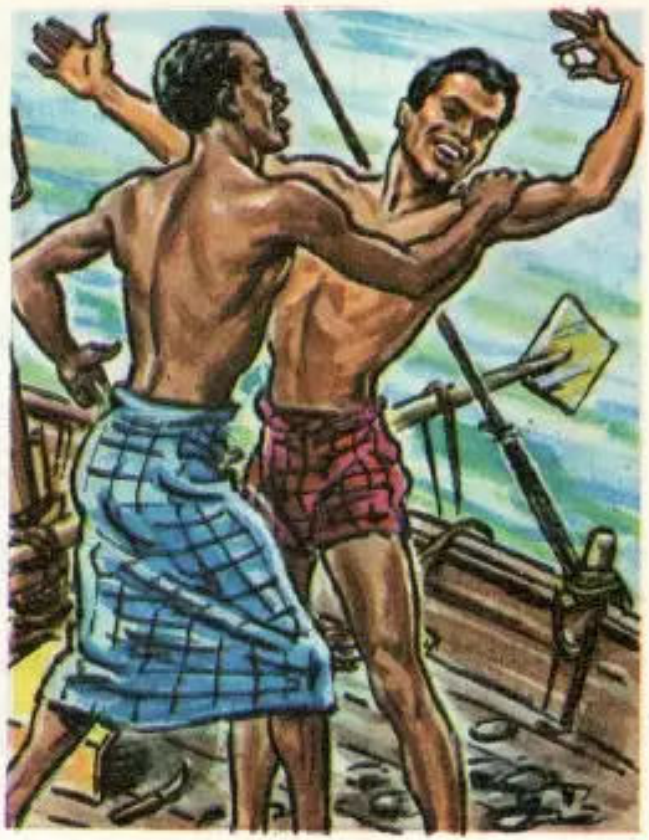
The shark is afraid. Hamad has hit it with the knife and has cut it in many places. The shark is tired. It cannot fight Hamad. It turns round and round. Then it swims away.

Hamad pulls the rope. Ali pulls him up quickly. Now he is in the boat again. He is very, very tired. He doesn't want to dive again. "Ali, we must go home," he says.

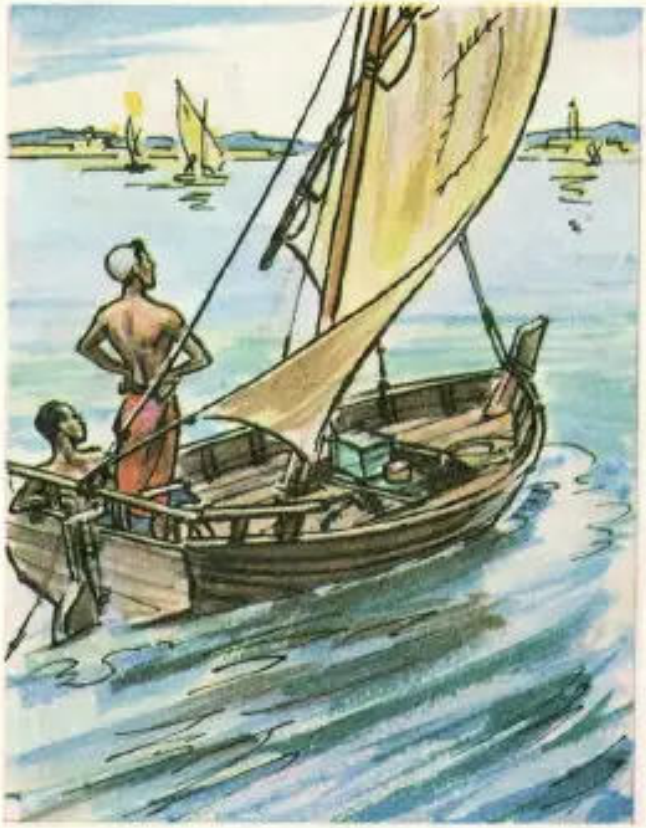


Hamad and Ali take the shells from the basket. They open them one by one.

Suddenly Ali cries, "Look, Hamad. Look what I have found." In one of the shells there is a very big pearl. It is as big as a bird's egg.



The two men are very happy. They dance and sing songs. They have found the pearl. Hamad is going to marry Fatima. He is going to be rich and happy.



Now the boat is sailing back. It is not going back to Kuwait. Hamad wants to go to Basra. He must give the pearl to Fatima. He must marry her. Then he can go to Kuwait and see his children.

The boat comes to Basra. The two men go to Fatima's father and he takes them to Fatima.

Hamad shows the pearl to Fatima. He gives it to her.

"How did you get it, Hamad?" asks Fatima.

Hamad tells her the story. Ali tells her the story too. Fatima is very pleased with Hamad.

"Father, Hamad is a very brave man," she says to her father. "I want to marry him."

Hamad and Fatima get married. Hamad is rich now. He needn't work on the sea again. It is hard work. He needn't dive for pearls again.

Hamad's children are very happy, too. Now they have a mother. Their father is rich. He can buy them a lot of food and clothes.

All of them live happily ever after.

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